GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2863
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
ALTERNATE MEDICAL THERAPIES
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trend towards alternative medicines in Europe is growing as reported in the Hindu dated October 15,2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote alternate therapies in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT.PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. There is a marked resurgence of interest in traditional and alternative medicine including Ayurveda in European countries. This was also observed in the International Conference-cum-Exhibition on Ayurveda in Budapest, Hungary on 29th September, 2007 organized by Department of AYUSH in collaboration with Indian Embassy and a local NGO.

(c) Department of AYUSH is promoting and propagating Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy within the country by providing financial support under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for upgradation of AYUSH educational institutions, promotion of research in these systems and drug standardization and quality control of these systems. Mainstreaming of AYUSH is a core strategy under National Rural Health Mission. Financial assistance is being provided to States for creation of AYUSH facilities in District hospitals, Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres and assistance is also provided for supply of essential AYUSH medicines in these dispensaries. Several initiatives have been taken for promotion of these systems at the National and international level. AROGYA fairs have been organized since 2001 in Delhi and other regional centres to develop awareness within the country. The First International Conclave of Traditional Medicine was organized at Delhi in November, 2006 and an International Meet of Traditional Medicine Regulators and Industry was organized on the sidelines of AROGYA, 2007 at Delhi in October, 2007.